

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A signal conversion apparatus, comprising:

signal conversion means for converting an input signal to said apparatus to a converted signal;

determination means for examining said input signal for additional information added to said input signal indicating that copying of said input signal is limited ~~or prohibited~~;

prohibiting means for prohibiting said converted signal from being copied when said additional information is present on said input signal; and

notification means for notifying a user of said apparatus of said prohibiting of said converted signal.

2. (previously presented) A signal conversion apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input signal is a video signal, and said signal conversion means is adapted to perform a signal conversion process on said video signal selected from the group consisting of converting progressive scanning into interlaced scanning and converting interlaced scanning into progressive scanning.

3. (previously presented) A signal conversion apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input signal is a video signal, and said signal conversion means is adapted to convert the number of scanning lines of said video signal.

4. (previously presented) A signal conversion apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said input signal is a video signal, and said signal conversion means is adapted to convert a signal format of said video signal.